

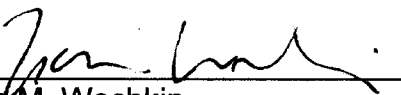
REMARKS

At the time the present Office Action was mailed (August 8, 2007) claims 1, 3-14, 17-28 and 40 were pending. In this response, claims 10, 17 and 21 have been cancelled, and claims 1, 4-6, 11-13, 18 and 26-28 have been amended. Accordingly, claims 1, 3-9, 11-14, 18-20, 22-28 and 40 are currently pending.

In the August 8, 2007 Office Action, claim 40 was allowed, claim 21 was indicated to be allowable if rewritten to be in independent form, and the remaining pending claims were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103. Without commenting on or conceding the merits of the Examiner's position regarding the rejected claims, and in an effort to expedite prosecution of the current application without prejudice to pursuing the cancelled and/or amended claims in their original and/or other forms in continuation and/or other applications, claim 18 has been amended to include the features of claim 21, and the remaining pending claims have been amended to depend from claim 18. Accordingly, in view of the above, the application is now in condition for allowance and applicants accordingly request a Notice of Allowance. If the Examiner discovers any informalities or other matters that may be expediently handled by telephone, he is encouraged to contact the undersigned attorney at (206) 359-3257.

Dated: Feb. 7, 2008

Respectfully submitted,

By 
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